

What is claimed as the invention is:

1. A minivan adapted for wheelchair access by a folding ramp attached to the minivan, said minivan comprising:

5 a drive mechanism coupled to said folding ramp for raising and lowering the ramp;

wherein said drive mechanism is located beneath the floor of the minivan.

10 2. The minivan as set forth in claim 1 wherein said drive mechanism includes:

an electric motor having a rotor shaft;

a reduction gear having an input coupled to the rotor shaft and having an output shaft;

a drive shaft coupled to said output shaft;

15 3. The minivan as set forth in claim 2 wherein said drive shaft includes at least one lever arm coupled to said folding ramp.

20 4. The minivan as set forth in claim 2 and further including a position sensing switch coupled to said drive shaft for interrupting power to said electric motor at a predetermined position of said ramp when the ramp is being extended.

5. The minivan as set forth in claim 4 and further including means for dynamically braking the folding ramp during extension.

25 6. The minivan as set forth in claim 2 wherein said drive shaft is supported by at least two sets of bearings.

add a1)

add D3)